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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
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| 10/555,400 | 11/03/2005 | Takao Fukuma | 125459 | 9464 |

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| ART UNIT | PAPER NUMBER |
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3748

DATE MAILED: 08/30/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

DETAILED ACTION

Receipt and entry of Applicant's Preliminary Amendment dated November 03, 2005 is acknowledged.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

(a) the invention was known or used by others in this country, or patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country, before the invention thereof by the applicant for a patent.

(a) the invention was known or used by others in this country, or patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country, before the invention thereof by the applicant for a patent.

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

The changes made to 35 U.S.C. 102(e) by the American Inventors Protection Act of 1999 (AIPA) and the Intellectual Property and High Technology Technical Amendments Act of 2002 do not apply when the reference is a U.S. patent resulting directly or indirectly from an international application filed before November 29, 2000. Therefore, the prior art date of the reference is determined under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) prior to the amendment by the AIPA (pre-AIPA 35 U.S.C. 102(e)).

Claims 14-17, 22-23, and 29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102 (a) as being anticipated by

Nakamura et al. (Nakamura) (Patent Number JP02005090426A).

Regarding claims 14 and 22, Nakamura discloses a warm-up method for an internal combustion engine, comprising; increasing a temperature of the CO₂ absorbing and releasing agent, which absorbs CO₂ contained in an exhaust gas in a first temperature range and which releases the CO₂ absorbed therein in a second temperature range that is higher than the first temperature range, to the second temperature range which is higher than the first temperature range; and supplying the CO₂ released from the CO₂ absorbing and releasing agent into a component of the internal combustion engine (e.g. See Abstract; and Detailed Description, Paragraphs 0011-0014).

Regarding claim 15, Nakamura further discloses that the component comprises an exhaust gas purification catalyst that purifies the exhaust gas discharged from the internal combustion engine (e.g. See Abstract and Figures; and Detailed Description, Paragraphs 0011-0014).

Regarding claim 16, Nakamura further discloses that the component comprises at least one of an intake manifold and a cylinder of the internal combustion engine (e.g. See Abstract and Figures; and Detailed Description, Paragraphs 0011-0014).

Regarding claim 17, Nakamura further discloses that at least one of an intake manifold and a cylinder of the internal combustion engine (e.g. See Abstract and Figures; and Detailed Description, Paragraphs 0011-0014).

Regarding claim 23, Nakamura further discloses that the heating unit comprises an electric heater (e.g. See Abstract and Figures; and Detailed Description, Paragraphs 0011-0014).

Regarding claim 29, Nakamura further discloses that the internal combustion engine is provided with a throttle valve; and the temperature control limit closes the throttle valve when

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the temperature of the CO₂ absorbing and releasing agent is increased to be brought into the second temperature range (e.g. See Abstract and Figures; and Detailed Description, Paragraphs 0011-0014).

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 18-21, 24-28, and 30 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Since allowable subject matter has been indicated, applicant is encouraged to submit **Final Formal Drawings (If Needed)** in response to this Office action. The early submission of formal drawings will permit the Office to review the drawings for acceptability and to resolve any informalities remaining therein before the application is passed to issue. This will avoid possible delays in the issue process.

Prior Art

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure and consists of five patents:

Nalette et al. (Pat. No. 6755892), Mitsuda (Pat. No. 6866702), Masahiro et al. (Pat. No. 63878545), Kawamura et al. (Pat. No. 5943859), and Miyake et al. (Pat. No. JP2005155354A) all discloses an exhaust gas purification for use with an internal combustion engine.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Examiner Binh Tran whose telephone number is (571) 272-4865. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Thomas E. Denion, can be reach on (571) 272-4859. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (571) 273-8300 for regular communications and for After Final communications.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

BT
August 21, 2006



Binh Q. Tran
Patent Examiner
Art Unit 3748